



The Salt Lake Herald

FIFTY YEAR. NO. 11 PROVO, UTAH, MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984 \$6.00 A MONTH — PRICE 25 CENTS

Canyon Blast Sends Dust Clouds Into Orem

Huge clouds of dust choke off the mouth of Provo Canyon after blasting crews set off 3,000 pounds of explosives to knock off a badly fractured rock overhang (middle left of photo) over U.S. 189.

Dennis Patterson Photo.

World and National News

Riots Rock Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (UPI) — Riot police Sunday fired smoke bombs and tear gas at 1,500 rock-hurling demonstrators staging an anti-government rally, leaving 19 people injured in the most violent confrontation in the capital this year.

The clashes erupted as the demonstrators were holding the first of a series of anti-government rallies to mark the first anniversary Aug. 21 of popular opposition leader Benigno Aquino's assassination.

Nineteen people, most of them policemen, were injured in the melee, police and hospital sources said. Joe Cantrell, a freelance photographer from Oklahoma, suffered a deep cut to the right hand when he was struck by a rock.

The state-run news agency said one patrolman was burned by sulphuric acid tossed by demonstrators.

Police said they detained 20 people for questioning. It was the most violent confrontation in Manila this year, authorities said.

Civil rights attorney Joker Arroyo charged at a hastily assembled news conference the police action was "unprovoked" and aimed at "scaring the masses" from staging a rally Aug. 21, which organizers expect to draw at least one million people.

It was the fourth time in a month authorities forcibly dispersed Filipinos protesting the 19-year rule of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Aquino, Marcos' main political rival, was killed last Aug. 21 at Manila airport on his return home after three years of self-exile in the United States. A commission probing the murder is expected to release its findings shortly.



A protester makes a peace sign while being doused by police water cannons at a labor rally.

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But, if the blast itself made a smaller mess than expected, the dust from the blast was perhaps more than expected.

Lt. Mike Wightman of the Orem Police Department reported dust had settled on the cars in the city parking lot, 56 N. State St.

The dispatcher at Orem said the sky went gray after the blast. "It looked like a smoggy, foggy sky," she said, noting a number of people called in concerning the dust.

UDOT had estimated the road would be closed four hours.

Five "rockers," large 35-ton dump trucks with six-foot-tall tires, moved in to haul the rock fragments away. Two huge bulldozers piled the fragments for a 12-yard loader to hoist the rock into the trucks.

Much of the rock fragments clung to the canyon wall, and Lays officials indicated it would have to be cleared off.

The 9 a.m. blast at the mouth of Provo Canyon cleared a fractured rock from the face of a cliff overhanging U.S.-189. Utah Department of Transportation officials chose to knock the rock loose to prevent the danger of having it break loose and fall on traffic.

"It broke up good, better than I thought it would," Alan Young of Lays Rock Products said just after the blast. "That road is not going to be closed for an hour."

By J.J. JACKSON
Herald Staff Writer

Dust settled as far away as Orem City Hall this morning after 3,000 pounds of explosives blasted away about 5,000 tons of rock overhanging the road to Provo Canyon.

(See more photos and story, Page 4)

As if a miniature atomic blast, the explosion created a mushroom-cloud of thick dust which, instead of settling beneath the blast, rode a north wind and scattered across the city.